



Temporary Food Establishments in Lake County

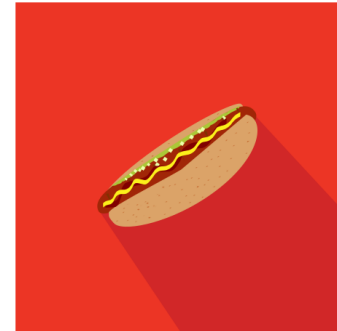
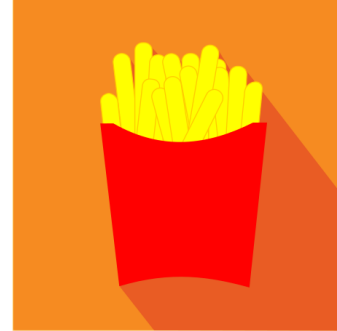
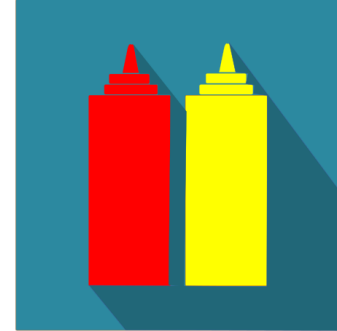
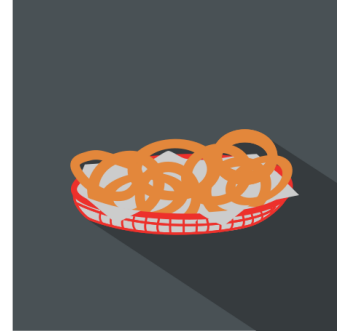
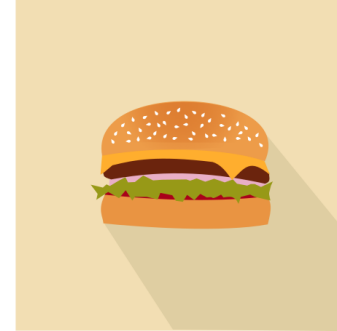
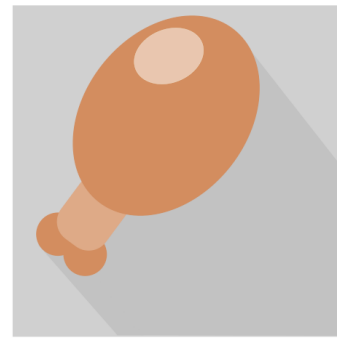
Lake County Environmental Health

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<https://www.lakemt.gov/environmental/envirohealth.html>



The following information is specific to events in Lake County.

2019 events in Lake County included:

Flathead Cherry Festival
St. Ignatius Good Old Days
Lake County Fair
3-on-3 Basketball Tournament
Festival of Art

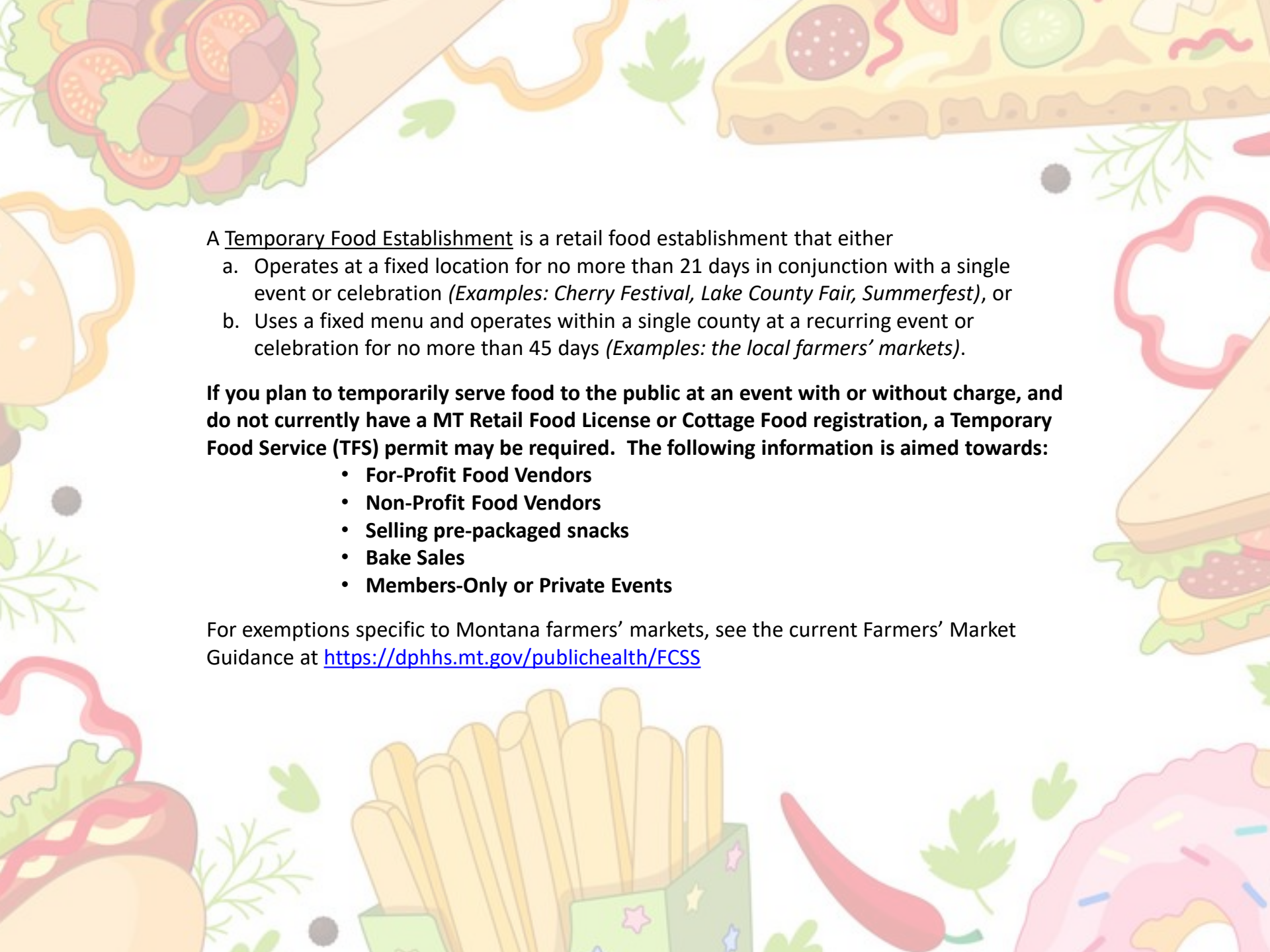
Pioneer Days
Sandpiper Art Festival
Summerfest (Car Show)
Swan Lake Huckleberry Festival
Flathead Lake Blues Festival

Small Town Girl Market
Ronan Harvest Fest
Polson Farmers' Market
Ronan Farmers' Market
Mission Falls Farmers' Market

If you plan to operate as a Temporary Food Establishment in another county or on Tribal lands, be sure to contact that jurisdiction's sanitarian's office for their temporary food service requirements.

*The following information is meant as a general guidance.
Contact Lake County Environmental Health if you have any questions.*



A decorative border featuring various food items: a salad bowl with tomatoes and cucumbers, a slice of pizza with toppings, a sandwich, a cup of coffee, a chili pepper, and a donut with sprinkles.

A Temporary Food Establishment is a retail food establishment that either

- a. Operates at a fixed location for no more than 21 days in conjunction with a single event or celebration (*Examples: Cherry Festival, Lake County Fair, Summerfest*), or
- b. Uses a fixed menu and operates within a single county at a recurring event or celebration for no more than 45 days (*Examples: the local farmers' markets*).

If you plan to temporarily serve food to the public at an event with or without charge, and do not currently have a MT Retail Food License or Cottage Food registration, a Temporary Food Service (TFS) permit may be required. The following information is aimed towards:

- **For-Profit Food Vendors**
- **Non-Profit Food Vendors**
- **Selling pre-packaged snacks**
- **Bake Sales**
- **Members-Only or Private Events**

For exemptions specific to Montana farmers' markets, see the current Farmers' Market Guidance at <https://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/FCSS>

**Permit
Required**

For-Profit Temporary Food Service

Examples

Indian Taco tent at the Rodeo

Grilling hamburgers at the Fair

Selling Cheesecake at the Farmers' Market

If you are selling food at an event for personal profit and do not have a Retail Food License or Cottage Food registration, a TFS permit is required.

Your TFS Permit can cover multiple Lake County events as long as you provide those dates on the TFS Plan Review form. A TFS Permit is \$85 in Lake County.

Depending on the complexity of your menu, LCEH may require a lesser fee. An additional \$85 fee & Plan Review may be needed if more events are added to your operation schedule after a TFS Permit has already been issued to you, or if your menu undergoes major changes.

If you sell food for more than 45 days in a calendar year, a Retail Food License is required.

Steps for getting a Temporary Food Service Permit in Lake County

Submit Plan Review

- ▶ At least 2 weeks before the event, submit the TFS Plan Review form to LCEH. Application forms are available at the LCEH office or on the department's [website](#). Be prepared to provide your menu and food service plans. The form will be reviewed by a Lake County sanitarian.

Comply with Food Safety Rules

- ▶ If your Plan is approved, you will be given guidelines outlining important food safety conditions specific to your menu and food service plans. You must review and follow these guidelines to maintain good public health practices at the event.

Display Permit

- ▶ A TFS permit will be provided for you to display during the event(s). The TFS permit will only be valid in Lake County and will only apply to the events/dates provided on your Plan Review form unless otherwise approved.

Permit May
Be Required

Non-Profit Groups Selling or Serving Prepared Foods

Examples

A spaghetti dinner night for a community member in need

Selling hot dogs one weekend to raise money for 4H

Selling lemonade at a festival for a school fundraiser

Non-profit groups include *religious, fraternal, youth, patriotic, or civic organizations*.

Non-profit groups serving or selling food in Lake County for more than 4 days in a 12-month period will need a TFS permit, but are exempt from TFS permit fees.

Non-profit groups serving or selling food for 4 days or fewer in a 12-month period aren't required to have a TFS permit, but we recommend they submit the Plan Review form to LCEH & we will provide food safety tips for the event.

If you serve food for more than 45 days in a calendar year, a Retail Food License is required.

No Permitting Required

Selling Food Items that Don't Need Time and/or Temperature Control for Safety

Examples

Selling Bottled Gatorade at the Triathlon

Selling Candy Bars Door-to-Door

Selling Whole Cherries at the Cherry Festival

Selling pre-packaged items that don't require preparation or temperature control do not require a TFS permit.

Selling whole produce does not require a TFS permit.

**No Permitting
Required**

Baked Goods and Preserves

Non-profit groups (i.e. religious, fraternal, youth, patriotic, civic organizations) that sell the following baked goods and preserves do not need a TFS permit:



Baked Goods Allowed

- ✓ Breads
- ✓ Cakes
- ✓ Cookies
- ✓ Candy
- ✓ Pastries
- ✓ Fruit pies



Preserves Allowed

- ✓ Fruit or berry jams
- ✓ Jellies
- ✓ Compotes
- ✓ Fruit butters
- ✓ Marmalades
- ✓ Chutneys
- ✓ Fruit aspics
- ✓ Fruit syrups

The following baked goods/preserves are not allowed without a TFS permit:

- ✗ Cream or whipped cream, custard, or meringue fillings or toppings
- ✗ Pumpkin pies
- ✗ Frostings made with uncooked eggs
- ✗ Freezer jams
- ✗ Sugar free preserves
- ✗ Pepper jellies
- ✗ Pickled items
- ✗ Salsas
- ✗ Tomatoes or tomato based products such as BBQ sauce

**No Permitting
Required**

Members-Only or Private Events

Examples

Weekly church dinner for church members

Women's Club luncheon for club members

BBQ lunch for school reunion

Events that serve food only to members of the organization as well as private events not open to the general public are exempt from food service permitting.

What are the permitting requirements for **Temporary Food Service (TFS)** in Lake County?

Use the following chart to help determine what will be required of you before you serve food at a temporary event in Lake County. Contact Lake County Environmental Health (LCEH) if you have questions.

Are you serving foods that require preparation and/or time & temperature control for safety?

No

No license or permitting needed for items like bottled drinks and pre-packaged snacks.

YES

Are you operating in a non-profit or charitable capacity (including religious, fraternal, youth, patriotic, or civic organizations)?

No

A TFS permit is required if selling prepared foods and/or foods requiring time/temperature control for safety for a personal profit.
A TFS Permit is \$85 in Lake County.

YES

Is the non-profit group selling food for **more** than 4 days in a 12-month period?

No

A TFS permit is not required for non-profits selling food for ≤ 4 days. It's recommended that you submit the TFS Plan Review form to LCEH and we will provide food safety tips specific to your menu and food service plans.

YES

A TFS permit is required for non-profit groups selling food for >4 days. Non-profits are exempt from the TFS permit fees. A Retail Food License is required is serving food more than 45 days

No licensure or registration needed for food events that are only open to members of your group, club, or church.

Non-profit groups selling exempt baked goods and preserves for a charitable purpose are exempt from plan review & permitting.